

He assured us that progress is being made and that he has the experience to carry it forward with his long distinguished career in the Army. He has been a part of the Central Command officer corps on four occasions in his career. So he does have extraordinary background, a unique background, to take on this responsible post.

He was joined by his lovely wife Kathleen in the course of the confirmation proceedings. He was so respectful to his wife, which the record reflects. They have three children, all of whom are of adult age now, who are actively working one way or another in the cause of freedom in various parts of the world.

He also brings experience with regard to joint duty, joint responsibilities. That means the combined efforts of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and such other areas of military participation.

I want to pay tribute to the civilians in the Department of Defense. They, too, are present throughout Iraq and accepting a very high level of risk in supporting the troops in their missions.

His prior assignments were as Director of the Joint Staff, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, on the Joint Staff, and a participant in joint operations in Kosovo and Bosnia, and in northern Iraq following Operation Desert Storm. He was integral in that situation. All of this eminently qualifies him for the challenges of commanding general of the U.S. Central Command.

He brings a unique perspective to this post. He is truly an expert and a student in this region. He is currently serving his fifth tour of duty in the Middle East. He is fluent in Arabic and has a proud—and I underline this, a proud—family heritage closely tied to the cultures of this region of the world.

He is the son of a man who served this Nation as an enlisted man in the U.S. Navy in World War II. So he comes from a family with longstanding service to this Nation.

I had the joy of talking with his wife, and we reminisced about how her father was a medical doctor, serving in the combat zones of France in World War I, as did my father serve as a doctor in the Fifth Division in the trenches in France in World War I.

That concludes my remarks with regard to General Abizaid. I am pleased this morning that the Senate has confirmed him and we will shortly notify the President.

NOMINATION OF MARK E. FERGUSON III

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I acknowledge that, as a body, we have just promoted Captain of the U.S. Navy Mark Ferguson to the rank of admiral. He will receive that promotion in due course. I hope to be present.

Many Senators know Mark Ferguson. Perhaps their first recollection of him as a young officer is he was an aide-de-camp to the NATO Supreme Allied Commander. In that capacity, he made

many visits to the offices of Senators, and on the occasions when General Clark was hosting congressional delegations in the NATO command area, this wonderful naval officer was integral in making the arrangements. He is a marvelous family man, what we call a black-shoe naval officer, which means he is proud of the shoes he has worn on the decks of all types of surface vessels throughout his career. He is a sailor's sailor and brings to this new post a marvelous background of achievement. We wish him and his family well in his new post as a young frocked admiral, which will take place during the course of this summer.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, July 8, the time determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 227, the nomination of David Campbell to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona, provided that the Senate then proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate. I further ask consent that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 88, the nomination of Victor Wolski to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Further, I ask that the same order apply to Calendar No. 132, the nomination of Bruce Kasold to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 11

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I understand that S. 11 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 11) to protect patients' access to quality and affordable health care by reducing the effects of excessive liability costs.

Mr. WARNER. On behalf of the majority leader, I object to further proceedings on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. WARNER. That would be under rule 14?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

PROVIDING FOR THE CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate having received from the House H. Con. Res. 231 in the form contemplated in the agreement, the resolution is agreed to and the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 231) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 231

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, June 26, 2003, Friday, June 27, 2003, or Saturday, June 28, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2003, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, June 26, 2003, Friday, June 27, 2003, or Saturday, June 28, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 7, 2003, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Now, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period for morning business to be determined by the leadership. It is hoped during that period of time that Senators can make themselves available to speak with respect on our late colleague Senator Strom Thurmond.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.